

the chronicle

Evacuees tell pupils about life during wartime

– see page 3



Paralysed artist fulfils dream of seeing his photographs on show

– see page 14



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Brewery to fight over rejection of bike park

BRIERLEY Hill-based Bathams Brewery has appeal against a decision to reject plans for an electric bike park near Kinver Edge following an outcry from residents.

South Staffordshire District Council rejected plans last August but Bathams, which owns the land at Compton Worwood Farm, Beacon Lane, has launched an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate.

Planners said the scheme, which would be the first of its kind in the country, was an unsuitable development in the green belt. But brewery owner Tim Batham said: "Electric bikes make no noise, create no emissions and cause no pollution."

"They are the bikes of the future that we can bring here right now, bikes with no environmental impact, and no noise nuisance to anyone."

Residents are angry the plans have reappeared and say they are determined to defeat them.

Margaret Knott, who walks her son's golden retriever dogs in the area known as Sheepwalks every day. Mrs Knott, aged 67, of Newfield Drive, Kingswinford, said: "It is like being in heaven, the peace and tranquility is wonderful."

A campaign website has already attracted more than 200 people.

Leanne settles for £4,000 deal

A DUDLEY support worker's dreams of pocketing the £250,000 jackpot on TV game show Deal or No Deal ended with her taking home just £4,000. Leanne Barratt settled for that offer from the banker, but her box contained £35,000.

Despite the loss, Miss Barratt, who cares for adults with learning difficulties, said: "I'm just completely over the moon." The mother of twins Rebecca and Jessica was watched in the audience at Channel 4 last week by fiancé Adam Dolson.

School wants new classrooms for art

THE Kingswinford School wants to build two arts classrooms to house expressive arts lessons.

Bosses at the Water Street site said pupil numbers will not increase but the development will give the department its own space rather than sharing with other subjects. Trees and a hedge will screen neighbouring houses. Planners will make a decision in the coming weeks.

More empty shops

THE number of empty shops in Dudley borough is rising with around 17 per cent vacant in Brierley Hill, 20 per cent in Dudley, eight per cent in Stourbridge and four per cent in Halesowen, according to the Local Data Company.



Dudley Hospital Radio programme controller Steve Welch, receives a cheque for £500 from Dudley Lions members, from left: Ray McGuirk and John and Anita Bowen

Hospital radio gets a Lions' share

VOLUNTEERS in Dudley are celebrating raising more than £2,000 for local hospitals through their fundraising activities.

Dudley Hospital Radio and Birmingham Children's Hospital have both received windfalls thanks to the fundraising efforts of members of Dudley Lions.

It made its bumper donations after a year collecting cash through raffles, fetes and table top sales.

A cheque for £1,500 was presented to a representative from Birmingham Children's Hospital at one of the group's regular meetings at the Ward Arms Hotel in Dudley. And a £500 cheque for

Dudley Hospital Radio was presented live on air at their Russell's Hall Hospital base last Wednesday.

Adrian Baillie, chair of Dudley Hospital Radio, said: "Our team of volunteers are so grateful to Dudley Lions for their fundraising which will buy essential equipment to help to keep our station on the air. "This fantastic generosity gives us all such a boost."

Anita Bowen, former president of Dudley Lions, added: "Our volunteers had a great time raising money to donate to such worthwhile causes."

"We know that Birmingham Children's Hospital will put our

money to good use and are delighted that our local hospital radio can continue to flourish with our support."

Dudley Lions has named Brain Tumour UK as its 2011 charity and hopes to raise more cash to support essential research at Wolverhampton University.

The group will continue to support the British Legion Poppy Appeal and the Marie Curie Daffodil fund for which it collectively raised more than £1,500 through supermarket collections last year.

To volunteer with Dudley Lions or to make a donation contact the club on 0845 833 4978.

JOBS THREAT AS FUNDS ARE AXED

TWO careers advice centres in Dudley, which help thousands of young people to find work, have lost their council funding, putting 35 jobs at risk.

A sign in the window of the Connexions Centre in Stourbridge says it will close on March 31. The firm running it had declined a request to cut cost, council leaders said. Dudley Council has announced it is not renewing its contract with Kent-based Prospects Services and intends to extend its own careers advice service.

Roaming horses delay firefighters

STRAY horses causing havoc on the streets of Dudley are believed to have been released deliberately. Problems with the wandering animals have been escalating throughout the town over the past few months.

In the latest incident, on Monday, fire fighters rushing to a car crash were forced to slam on the brakes when the horses wandered into the road in front of them. The crew, from Brierley Hill Fire Station, had blue lights flashing and had to use the fire engine's horn to get the horses to move.

Officers said they had only narrowly avoided hitting some of the horses.

The crew had been called to a minor collision in Brierley Hill Road. Fire fighter Kevin Baugh said: "We nearly crashed into some of them. We were going along John Street with lights flashing on our way to an accident."

There have been complaints of scores of horses roaming around streets, trampling gardens and posing a danger to motorists.

John Millar, director of urban environment at Dudley Council, said: "We suspect the horses currently on the streets and on open ground may have been deliberately released."

About 35 staff work at the centres, in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, and High Street, Stourbridge. The local authority has said it will look at taking on around 13 staff from the centres to deal with children who have special learning needs.

Prospects Services refused to confirm whether either branch will shut or what will happen to other workers. It is not clear whether they receive funding from any other sources apart from the council.

However, one staff member, who refused to be named, said they had been told the branches were to shut.

Disbanded

The worker added: "Everyone was shocked when we heard the news. We provide a service to the young people in this area."

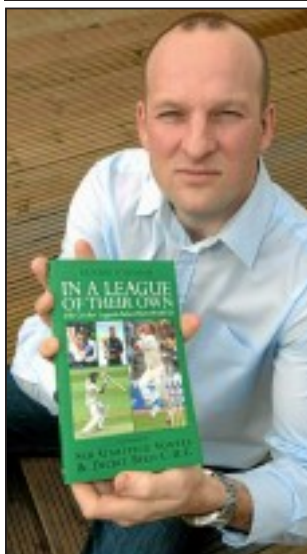
Dudley Council leader Councillor Anne Millward said the council had signed a 12-month contract with Prospects Services to run the centres when the former Black Country Connexions service was disbanded a year ago.

She said the authority had asked Prospects to cut its charges for providing the services this year but Prospects had declined.

"The centres are Prospects' buildings – if they shut these down it is because they have walked away from them."

Prospects spokeswoman Mary Palmer said the company would not comment.

Cricket selection proves sticky wicket



Richard Sydenham with his new cricket book

AN AUTHOR from Cradley Heath has been on a 15-year mission to find the world's greatest cricket XI. Richard Sydenham has travelled the world asking 100 legends of the game for their best XI, which he has published in a book *In A League Of Their Own*.

By Jon Pritchard

Michael Holding.

He said: "Many cricket fans will have often been asked who their best XI would be. The aim of the book was to bring this sort of 'pub chat' into book form."

The book asked the contributors to name their best XI and include a short paragraph about each player explaining why they picked them.

Selected

Mr Sydenham said: "With 100 of the greatest ever cricketers making their personal selections, it's hard to argue against them."

The only local player in the list is Smethwick-born fast-bowler Sydney Barnes, who is the only player ever to be selected for England while playing league cricket.

In *A League Of Their Own* is published by DP Publishing at £9.99.

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Switch to Father's Day for fair sparks backlash

RESTAURANT and club bosses in Kinver are seething after the village's biggest community event was moved to Father's Day. They claim it will kill trade on one of their busiest days.

Kinver Country Fair's new steering committee has sparked controversy after deciding to break with tradition and stage this year's event on a Sunday. The only date which does not conflict with events in neighbouring towns or bank holidays is June 19, which is Father's Day this year. The fair has been held on the first Saturday in May in the past.

Restaurants, cafes and clubs in the village are protesting against the change claiming it will cause disruption to their normally busy Father's Day trade.

Henry Williams, of Kinver Constitutional Club, said the date change had not taken into account the impact on some businesses in the village.

Disruption

"Restaurants and pubs in the village are well-used on Father's Day by families celebrating the occasion. It is actually one of their busiest days."

"But with roads around the village closed for this event and the sheer numbers in the village these people are not going to come in. They will go somewhere else instead to celebrate. We cannot see the same level of trade coming from the fair which will be on fields in the village. People who just want to come out for a quiet meal or drink will simply avoid Kinver. It will be a massive disruption to our trade."

Firm fined on wage blunder

A STOURBRIDGE firm has been fined £400 with £150 costs by Dudley magistrates for failing to deduct child support from a worker's wages.

RAM Express Ltd, of Bridgnorth Road, admitted four charges of failing to comply with a court order to deduct money from Jason Worth's earnings over four months.

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending, told the court that the task had been left in the hands of an "incompetent" employee.

Mr Williams hoped they would be able to convince the steering committee to change the date from June 19. But steering group chairman Julian Hall said the date had been carefully considered and was now unlikely to be altered.

"Consultation was carried out before this decision was made. We had originally hoped to hold this fair closer to the traditional date."

"However, these conflicted with other events, bank holidays and school half-terms."

"We have done all we can to accommodate everyone in the village."

Still smitten after seven decades



Frank Ledington and his bride Joan on their wedding day at Wordsley Church in February 1941



Frank, 92, and his wife Joan, 90

WHILE fighting for his country in Burma, Frank Ledington got through the days by thinking of his new bride and the baby daughter he had never met back home in the Black Country.

Now the 92-year-old and his devoted wife Joan, 90, of Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, are celebrating their platinum wedding anniversary after seven decades of married bliss.

Their lasting love has never faltered despite them being forced to spend five years apart while Frank fought in the Second World War with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The



Joan when she was just 17

couple, who say they have never had an argument, have two children, five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

It was love at first sight for the pair who met by chance in Brierley Hill High Street in 1936. They were engaged for five years before marrying at Wordsley Church on February 8, 1941.

Wonderful

A year later, Frank was posted to Burma when Joan was expecting their first child.

Daughter Valerie was born shortly after he left and Frank did not see her



Soldier Frank in Burma in 1942

until he returned when she was five.

"This beautiful little girl came up to me and told me I was her daddy – it was a wonderful moment," Frank said.

After seven years in the Army Frank, a pigeon fancier and former paperboy, worked as a welder at Brockmoor Foundry.

Joan had a job at Stuart Crystal as a glass polisher, and later on the assembly line at Stourbridge record changer manufacturer BSR.

The couple said they were as much in love today as on their wedding day.

Joan said: "We have always looked after each other."

Apology calls by £11,000 row man

A CARER who lost out on £11,500 when Sandwell Council U-turned on a grant application is demanding a formal apology.

Des Brown, of Tipton, was promised the cash to look after his severely disabled wife Sharon.

The council cancelled the grant on October 1 – the day the money was due to go into Mr Brown's account.

Officers said he should not have been offered it in the first place because he was not eligible.

The 62-year-old, of High Street, says he had budgeted for the sum and has found himself out of pocket as a result of the blunder.

Sandwell Council says expenses incurred will be reimbursed, as long as he provides evidence.

Mr Brown said: "The council has caused us endless heartache."

"That money would have helped me care for my wife and our home while allowing me to provide some extra assistance when taking her to hospital appointments."

Mrs Brown suffers with deafness, asthma, diabetes and a hip problem.

The council's cabinet member for adult care Councillor Linda Horton said the authority had apologised to Mr Brown.

She said: "We are waiting for Mr Brown to provide the council with evidence of payments he has made for his wife's care, which we feel is a reasonable thing to do."

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School caterers taste success in vital exam



Catering manager Ceri Ward, front, with, catering staff Pauline Aston, left Lynne Wright, Gwendoline Jukes and RSA Academy kitchen colleagues

CATERING staff at a Tipton school can now boast of becoming the cream of the crop.

The 15-strong team at the RSA Academy, in Bilston Road, have all passed GNVQs for cooking food from scratch, good hygiene and hospitality.

The team of women, all recruited locally, have graduated from reheating prepared food to cooking meals with vegetables grown by pupils at the school, baking fresh bread and ensuring that children have a balanced diet.

Twizzlers

Lesley James, director of business development at the academy, said: "We've been training these ladies to work in our catering kitchen and we're so proud of them."

"They've been doing assessment and coursework to show they can cook fresh food, day in, day out, and they have all successfully passed their GNVQs."

"We don't buy anything in - it's a far cry from Jamie Oliver's campaign to stop turkey twizzlers and chips in schools. They bake bread, cook chillies, curries and pies from scratch."

Labour protest as rent charges soar by 6.7pc

A RENT increase of an average 6.7 per cent for thousands of tenants in Dudley will come into force on April 4, it has been confirmed. The biggest increase in almost a decade for the people who live in the borough's 24,000 council homes was approved last week.

The increases range from £3.37 to £5.50 a week, with the average increase equivalent to £4.52. The move is expected to bring in £5.2 million, but Dudley Council will be allowed to keep only £1.4m, with the rest going to the Treasury.

Council leaders say the increase had to be calculated using central Government's formula based on inflation and the size and value of council properties.

The Conservative housing chief, Councillor David Simms, said he had written to the minister to express his concerns. He said the Government wanted to align council house rents with rents charged by social landlords such as housing associations by 2015-16.

Currently, rent for a three bedroom semi in Dudley with a social landlord is around £20 higher than the equivalent council house rent.

For the opposition Labour group, Councillor Shaikat Ali said: "Can I express our concern in relation to the rent increase of nearly seven per cent at this difficult time and the significant impact that is going to have on tenants?"

Standards

Other increases given the go ahead during the cabinet meeting last Wednesday include service charges at the council's 344 sheltered housing schemes, which are set to rise by 10 per cent to a new weekly charge of £9.78. Laundry tokens for residents living in high-rise flats will be increased by 4.6 per cent to £1.90, it was decided.

The cabinet was told that there are currently 93 council houses in the borough which are empty and would cost more than £10,000 to bring up to liveable standards.

Councillor Simms said a review was currently taking place to try and get them brought back into use.

Viewers caught without licence

MORE than 220 television viewers in Rowley Regis and a further 130 in Cradley Heath were caught without a licence in 2010. According to the latest figures from TV Licensing, the total figure for the year in Sandwell borough exceeded 3,200. More than 630 evaders were caught in West Bromwich, more than 600 in Smethwick, more than 600 in Oldbury, more than 550 in Tipton and more than 450 in Wednesbury.

£75,000 revamp of tennis courts

A MAJOR overhaul of tennis courts in Sandwell Valley has begun. Under the £75,000 plans, the four concrete courts will be resurfaced with artificial grass.

It is hoped that once work is completed, courts in Sandwell Valley can also be used for football and hockey.

Cash for work is coming from funds provided by developers to improve facilities in the area.

The project was due to start last autumn but was delayed after a play barn project collapsed due to

funding problems. John Satchwell, of Sandwell Council's parks and countryside department, said: "When it became clear that the funding wasn't going to be available for the £800,000 play barn we decided to put down the redevelopment of the tennis courts for a while."

"We now want to move forward to put down the synthetic surfaces to provide all-weather courts, set to be predominantly used for tennis and football."

Friends tell of war evacuation



Pupils Emma Gardener, aged nine, and James Garrington, seven, with World War Two evacuees Barry Fletcher and Harry Spalding

TWO Second World War evacuees took youngsters back to the days of ration books and gas masks when they visited a Dudley school.

Pals Barry Fletcher and Harry Spalding were invited to Netherton CofE Primary School to give a talk about being evacuated from Station Road Board School, in Birmingham, to Feckenham in Worcestershire in September 1939.

Mr Fletcher, aged 80, a retired training manager from Sutton Coldfield, said: "It was sad to leave home, but I was sent to the same house as Harry and we ended up like brothers."

Ex-postmaster Mr Spalding, 81, of Barton-under-Needwood, said: "It was only supposed to be a weekend trial but I stayed away from home for three years."

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Taxi driver sentenced for passenger attack

Deep holes a 'risk to drivers'

A POTHOLE-cratered main road has been branded a "risk to drivers" amid claims a council failed to make repairs despite problems being reported more than a year ago.

Around 50 potholes opened up in Worcester Lane, between Stourbridge and Hagley, following the heavy snowfall in January 2010.

But despite the issue being reported to Dudley Council no repairs were ever carried out, residents say. The potholes have deepened during this year's big freeze.

Programme

Further reports have been made to the authority but despite some of the holes being marked out with paint no work has been carried out, it is claimed.

Retired school teacher Graham Quinlivan, aged 63, said the holes were "a risk to drivers".

"I personally reported all 50 of these potholes on Dudley Council's website. I received an acknowledgement, but nothing was done."

Dudley council's cabinet member for transport, Councillor Angus Adams said: "Any reports of potholes from the public go into our ongoing programme of works for highways patching and pothole repairs, which saw the council fill more than 15,000 potholes during 2010."



Graham Quinlivan with one of the potholes in the lane

A TAXI driver who attacked a passenger for criticising his driving has been given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £1,250 in compensation and costs.

A bystander joined in the attack on the passenger and his friend, who was knocked unconscious, a court heard.

Taxi driver Abdul Jabbar, from Vicarage Road, Lye, was given an eight-month sentence, suspended for two years, for pulling Wayne Clark from his private hire cab and kicking him. Mr Clark suffered a head wound and needed three stitches.

His friend Ryan Broadbent was knocked unconscious after attacked by bystander Arfan Rauf, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Rauf, of Grange Road, Lye, was also given a suspended sentence and ordered to pay £3,250.

Jabbar, aged 31, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Clark causing actual bodily harm. Rauf, 25, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Clark and Mr Broadbent, causing actual bodily harm.

Unpaid

Jabbar was ordered to pay £250 in compensation to Mr Clark, as well as £1,000 court costs, and to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Rauf was ordered to pay £2,000 in compensation to Mr Broadbent, £250 to Mr Clark and £1,000 in costs. He must also carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

Recorder Martin Butterworth told them: "Your behaviour was appalling."

Mr Julian Elock, prosecuting, said the victims and two other men had got into Jabbar's taxi in Stourbridge in the early hours of New Year's Day 2010. They dropped one man off in Netherton and had been heading towards Quarry Bank when Mr Clark described Jabbar's driving as "erratic".

The court heard that this led Jabbar to pull over and assault Mr Clark. Rauf, who was returning home from a night out, joined in and knocked Mr Broadbent out.

Defending solicitor for Jabbar, Mr Afzal Zaheer, said his client had asked the party to leave his taxi and they had refused.

He added that his client was no longer working as a taxi driver and had expressed his remorse. Diljit Bachada, for Rauf, said her client had since avoided drinking alcohol.

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thechronicle

Campaign to get more on register for donors

Thousands sign up

More than 107,000 people from Dudley are already on the organ donor register. Nationwide more than 17 million people have signed up. In the UK since April 2010:

- 689 people have donated organs. An additional 1,713 people have donated corneas.
- 2,250 people have received the gift of sight.
- 1,822 people have received transplants.
- 7,906 people are still waiting for transplants.
- Forty five people in Dudley have received organ transplants while 69 people are on the waiting list.

HOSPITAL staff in Dudley have launched a fresh campaign to recruit more organ donors to help give patients a new lease of life.

They hope to encourage more people to sign the NHS organ donation register.

Doctors, specialist nurses and governors have joined forces to try and cut waiting lists for transplants by increasing the number of potential donors. Since April 45 people in the borough have received organ transplants while 69 patients are currently on the waiting list.

Rebecca Timmins, NHS Blood and Transplant specialist nurse in organ donation, is responsible for organising donations at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley.

She said: 'I speak to families about their relatives' wishes and about how important it is that their wishes are fulfilled.

"I then support them through the whole process so they know what is happening and who is going to benefit from their kind donation."

The Birmingham University graduate works with intensive care consultant Dr Julian Sonksen and emergency department consultant Dr Rajan Paw to encourage staff to see donation as everyday practice.

Amazing

She said three people die every day while waiting for a transplant and we feel that is too many and we want to do something about it."

"Transplants are one of the most miraculous achievements of modern medicine but they depend entirely on the generosity of donors and their families who are willing to make this life-saving gift to others."

"There is a desperate need for



Left to right, specialist nurse Rebecca Timmins, clinical lead Dr Rajan Paw, organ donation committee chairman Councillor Steve Waltho, clinical lead Dr Julian Sonksen and Sister Melanie Rushton, from the critical care unit

more donors, not just locally but nationally," added Dr Sonksen.

The hospital has an organ donation committee which is working to encourage more donors to sign up the national register.

Members include hospital governor and St Thomas's ward councillor, Steve Waltho who has spoken at Dudley Council's four area committee meetings.

"It is such an amazing gift to give and one that often helps more than one person."

"We desperately need more people to sign up for the register so we can increase the number of transplants that are carried out each year and reduce the waiting lists," he said.

To find out more call 0300 1232323 or go to www.organ-donation.nhs.uk

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165/70TR13	Bridgestone B250	£49.82	£93	£179	165/70TR13	Avon ZTS	£39.75	£77	£148	165/70TR13	Hero	£32.86	£60	£117
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175/65TR14	Bridgestone B250	£54.54	£101	£189	175/65TR14	Avon ZTS	£42.38	£81	£153	175/65TR14	Duro	£38.45	£70	£133

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185/65HR15	Bridgestone ER300	£79.47	£152	£291	185/65HR15	Avon ZV3	£58.77	£111	£214	185/65HR15	Hero	£43.22	£81	£152
195/65HR15	Bridgestone B250	£67.02	£128	£245	195/65HR15	Avon ZV3	£53.44	£102	£194	195/65HR15	Hero	£44.58	£82	£153

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195/65VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£68.28	£128	£245	195/65VR15	Avon ZV5	£55.39	£103	£199	195/65VR15	Fullway	£45.31	£84	£161
205/55VR16	Bridgestone ER300	£78.08	£148	£281	205/55VR16	Avon ZV5	£66.68	£128	£245	205/55VR16	Federal	£59.96	£112	£214

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205/55WR16	Bridgestone ER300	£84.08	£158	£301	205/55WR16	Avon ZV5	£69.72	£132	£250	205/55WR16	Hero	£56.10	£107	£203
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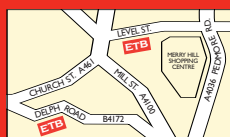
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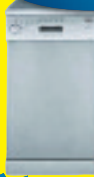
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The Pocket Collection Range of Mattresses

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The Memory Foam and Spring Range of Mattresses

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thechronicle

Curtain raises on new show

MEMBERS of a Black Country theatre group have announced details of their latest production. Quarry Bank Operatic Society is gearing up for their annual musical extravaganza at Halesowen's Cornbow Hall next month. The show will run at the venue, in Hagley Street, from March 2-5. It will feature numbers from stage and screen favourites including Hairspray, Mamma Mia,

Cabaret, Shrek and 42nd Street. Its previous show of Titanic – the Musical was staged at Netherton Arts Centre and featured on Channel 4 television show Titanic: The Mission which was about the return of the controversial Netherton Anchor. Tickets cost £10 each and include light refreshments. They are available by calling 01384 820902 or by emailing linda.raybould@yahoo.co.uk

Council gets £388,000 from 'surplus' auction

Acorns mark shop's first year

ACORNS' Dudley shop staff have been celebrating their first birthday.

The shop in the High Street was opened by the deputy mayor and mayoress of Dudley last January and has marked the anniversary with a week of activities. Face painting, a lucky dip and tombola have helped pull in the shoppers along with a celebratory buy two – get one free offer.

Manager Vicky Hindmarsh said: "Acorns has had a great response and welcome from all the customers at Dudley.

Breaks

"We would like to thank them for their generosity and support over the last year."

Meanwhile, people are being asked to donate goods to the shop during opening hours from 9 – 5pm.

Funds are raised from every sort of donation – even worn shoes, handbags and clothes can be sold, as rag.

Children can stay at the Acorn hospices for short breaks, emergency and end-of-life care.

Acorns is currently caring for nearly 600 children who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.



Dudley's Acorns shop manager Vicky Hindmarsh, left, celebrates the first birthday for the shop with volunteers Richard Gregory and Danielle Roberts

FIFTEEN out of 18 sites put up for sale by Sandwell Council after being deemed "surplus to requirements" have been sold at auction.

The authority has made £388,000 from the sale of vacant land and empty shops and offices.

It now plans to identify more sites for sale in the coming weeks. The council is trying to save £75 million over the next four years and is selling off land and buildings across the borough to bring in extra cash. In total, the portfolio is worth about £4 million.

Land already offloaded include plots at Carisbrooke Road, Wednesbury; Halesowen Street in Rowley Regis; Lea Avenue Wednesbury; Toll End Road, Tipton and Jervoise Street West Bromwich.

Also sold off was the former Dolmac site in Tipton, which was bought by the council to make way for the construction of Tipton's Owen Street underpass.

Identified

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell's jobs and economy chief, said: "I am delighted that in these difficult times the council has been able to sell off these plots."

"We look forward to seeing the plans the purchasers bring forward for them."

"We are identifying more sites like this in time for a further auction in March." The former Pullingers electrical shop in Park Lane East Tipton and a Smethwick cemetery lodge have already been identified as properties to go.

The shop has been empty for the last 15 years since the business moved to a new base. Uplands cemetery lodge was used to house offices and store records, which will now all be centralised at Sandwell Valley Crematorium.

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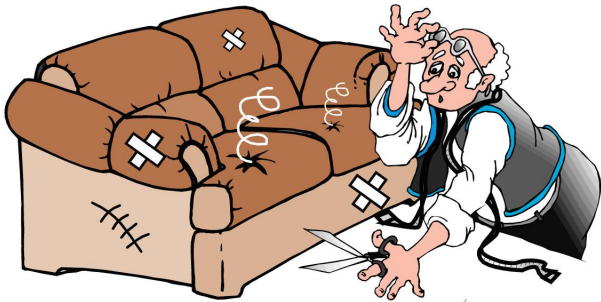
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Each ticket admits a family of up to four people before the park closes for winter on November 4, 2011. Whilst amusement rides are not included as part of the prize, multi-ride wristbands and ride tickets are available to purchase on the day.

Further information: www.wmsp.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question:

What exhibit at West Midland Safari Park has a viewing platform:

a) Realm of the Indian Rhino b) Discovery Trail c) Hippo Lakes

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competition (editorial), Chronicle Series, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES with your contact details on the back.

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Museum exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin admires the photographs



Two of former college lecturer Tim Joplin's earlier photographs, the one on the left is of Snowdonia which he took in 1986



Tim Joplin and his wife Ruth at the exhibition of his work on display at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery



Tim Joplin's montage of a chestnut tree and, right, one of his garden photographs, which have become one of his passions



Photographer Tim fulfils display dream

WHEN an undiagnosed abscess left him paralysed from the neck down, Black Country artist Tim Joplin feared his ambition to stage an exhibition had been dashed.

But the former Dudley College photography lecturer was determined not to let the tragedy get in his way – and with the help of friends and family, he has forged forward to pursue his dream of displaying his work.

Father-of-two Mr Joplin, aged 59, from the Dixon's Green area of Dudley, was left paralysed after doctors failed to diagnose an abscess pressing on his spine in 2003.

After a seven-year legal battle, he was awarded compensation of more than £800,000 towards the cost of his future care.

One of Mr Joplin's passions is capturing images of gardens. Some of these are included in a range of his work, dating

from 1974 to 2010, on show at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, in St James's Road, Dudley, until March 12.

Mr Joplin lectured at the college between 1979 and 1997 heading photography and media studies.

He travelled extensively in the USA, Europe and North Africa producing images of land and cities, exploring the themes of man and his environment.

Some of these have been included in the exhibition, including portraits and landscape shots.

Since 2003, he visualises the image he wants to capture.

The shot is then taken by a third party, a family member or friend, taking pictures using techniques and angles as he instructed them to.

Unfortunately, they could not dedicate the 10 to 15 hours a week necessary to help set up a proper studio or take enough pictures needed for a full exhibition. But, following an

appeal, Mr Joplin recruited Wolverhampton-based photographer Jon Lewis as his assistant.

Mr Joplin's wife, Ruth, said he was excited about the exhibition and had been really pleased with how it looked when he went to see it.

"It is a selection of his work starting from around 1974 and taking it right up to the present day," she said. "It is

great to see all of the images together."

Through the appeal, which attracted applications from former students, neighbours and medical students, museum exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin contacted the family and offered the venue.

He said: "Over the years Mr Joplin has produced a wide range of wonderfully creative images."

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the pulse

Fighting-fit Shayne will not allow X Factor to fade

Katie has new show date

SINGER Katie Melua will be in concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on April 27, an event originally scheduled to take place in the NIA last December.

Fans can look forward to hits from her first three international best-selling albums including *The Closest Thing To Crazy* and *Nine Million Bicycles* as well as songs from her latest album, *The House*.

Released last in May, her fourth album has garnered some of the finest reviews of her career.

Tickets for her city centre date are priced from £30 to £50. Call 0121 780 3333.



Katie Melua in concert at Birmingham

By Sarah Hazelwood

SHAYNE WARD first graced our screens in 2005 but now he's back after three years with a new album and a new sound.

The X Factor winner is kicking off his UK tour at the Wolverhampton Civic, on March 15, following the release of his third album *Obsession*.

Hosting an array of hits from his first record-breaking single, *That's My Goal*, to the R 'n' B fused *You Hang Up*, the tour will also reveal a side to Shayne that fans have never seen.

Boasting a more mature sound, with live band instrumentals, this latest collection is a sure sign that the 26-year-old, once branded Britain's version of Justin Timberlake, has taken his time producing an album that truly reflects his vocal abilities and personality.

The Manchester heart-throb, picture right, said: "It is really great to be back, so much time has gone into making the album so I'm looking forward to seeing the reception it gets on the tour."

"Vocally and physically I have never been so strong, I am very eager to get myself back out there and try new things. I felt that it was

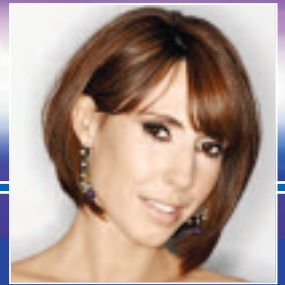
important that we didn't just churn out another album because my earlier releases were all a bit of a whirlwind. *Obsession* is a lot more focussed and experimental. "I have never been to Wolverhampton before, but I am very excited to perform at the Civic and meet some new fans."

His first album, *Shayne Ward*,

shot straight to number one and went platinum in a fortnight.

Six years since he first graced our screens, Ward is fighting fit and ready to take the music world by storm once again.

Tickets are £25 and can be purchased from the Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or on-line at www.wolvescivic.co.uk



TV listings start - page 18

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up - page 17



Reviews and gigs - page 22

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Who dunnit? Audience could have put question to Agatha

MYSTERY writer Agatha Christie's Verdict received its World Premiere at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 1958 before transferring to the West End - the author herself sat in the audience on the very first night.

Now, 53 years on, the play returns to the Grand with actress Dawn Steele leading an all-star cast from Monday for one week only.

Dawn is best known for playing Lexie MacDonald in the hit BBC TV drama Monarch of the Glen and recently starred as Alice Collins in the popular ITV series Wild at Heart, which continues for its sixth series.

She will be joined by Robert Duncan (who played Gus Hedges in the award-winning TV comedy Drop the Dead Donkey) and Ali Bastian, who shot to fame as Becca Dean in Hollyoaks and as Pc Sally Armstrong in The Bill. Ali also reached the semi-finals in the hit BBC show Strictly Come Dancing in 2009.

Brilliant

Other familiar faces in the cast include Matthew Lewis, who plays Neville Longbottom in the Harry Potter movies, EastEnders actress Elizabeth Power and 1960s pop idol turned actor Mark Wynter.

Verdict is one of Christie's few original plays which is not based on a novel or short story. It opened at the Strand Theatre in the West End in May 1958, and ran for 250 performances, before going on to New York.

It tells of the brilliant and idealistic Professor Karl Hendryk, a refugee from persecution in his homeland, whose world is turned upside down by a rich young woman student he is forced to give private lessons in order to pay for the care of his invalid wife.

Willy Russell's Scouse musical Blood Brothers, with Niki Evans as the long-suffering Mrs Johnstone, continues at the Grand to Saturday.

Three Phantoms - and one Christine - join



Verdict cast members, from left; Dawn Steele, Matthew Lewis and Ali Bastian

forces for a night of Phantastic music at Birmingham Hippodrome for one night only on Sunday. The Three Phantoms stars John Owen-Jones, Earl Carpenter and Matthew Cammelle, who between them have clocked up more than 3,000 performances as the star of the West End blockbuster, The Phantom of

the Opera. The trio will be joined by the Concert Philharmonic Orchestra, three dancers and special guest Rebecca Caine, who played Christine opposite Michael Crawford's original Phantom.

As well as songs from the Phantom and one from the 'new' Phantom show Love Never

Dies, the concert will also include favourites from Les Miserables, Aspects of Love and Sunset Boulevard.

Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance version of Cinderella, which keeps Prokofiev's magical music but transports the location to London in the Blitz, continues at the Hippodrome to Saturday.

Pontypandy Rocks at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Sunday at 1.30 and 4pm with little children's favourite Fireman Sam Live. There is a tribute to the late Roy Orbison by Barry Steele and the Platinum Five at the Alex on Thursday, February 24.

Birmingham Rep's first off-site production, Kenny Baraka's one-hour post-apocalyptic tale The Rememberers, is held in a warehouse at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter to Saturday (box office 0121 236 4455).

On Friday and Saturday (February 18 and 19) Kall Theatre will be bringing their production, Gandhi and Coconuts to The Public in West Bromwich town centre.

Starring Sophiya Haque, better known as Poppy Morales in Coronation Street, Gandhi and Coconuts is a witty, playful and poignant play about a lonely wife for whom reality and fantasy begin to blur.

Highlights

British Punjabi storytellers Peter and Gorg Chand tell stories collected and translated from India, with a wedding as the starting point, in Henna at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight (Thursday). Tomorrow night (Fri) at the Arena Flick Ferdinand presents a black comedy about a woman obsessed with equine matters in Horse.

Comedy highlights include radio and TV regular Mark Steel at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tonight (Thu). One of Frankie Boyle's favourite comics, Craig Campbell, has sold out his Slade Rooms gig on February 25, as has Georgie come-dienne Sarah Milligan on the same night at Birmingham Town Hall.

Jason Donovan and Verity Rushworth star in The Sound of Music at Hanley's Regent Theatre until March 5.

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2. The following is a list of the
names of the members of the
Board of Directors of the
Company.

[illegible]

Julie: The Family (PG)	2.00
Working Horse (PG)	2.50
Brother & Sisters (PG)	2.50

Joe Hill (1889-1935) was a famous labor activist and singer. He was executed for the murder of a woman, but many believe he was innocent. His story is told in the book *Joe Hill: The Man and His Music* by David E. Green.

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Friday

[illegible]

EBC2 6:00 *Celestial*, **Z90** *CESB*, **C3** *Chin*
6:00 *Booky's*, **11:00** *Ally*, **Chin
 (1985) *Friday* made history, with Ledy Ann 'Worm
 and Ginger Rogers. **1:00** *Doc South*, **R1** **1:45**
Buy or Not to Buy: 2:30 *Living Dangerously*, **F**
3:00 *Wanted Under Cover*, **R3** **3:30** *Flag It Ten*
the Best, **9:30** *Perfection*, **5:15** *Put Your Money*
Where Your Mouth is, **6:00** *Edgeheads*, **F** **6:30** *My*
Life in Books, **Z90** *The Culture Shock*, **Z90** *A*
Deadly Match, **3:30** *Flamingo*, **5:30** *Edin* *the*
World, **6:00** *Rocky*, **7:00** *Rocky*, **8:00** *Rocky*
9:00 *Fact and Fiction*, **10:30** *Meatheads*, **11:00** *The*
Realist Show, *Weather*, **11:50** *101 Crooked*, *World*
Cup Highlights, **12:50** *Ally*, *Shadow of the Vampire***

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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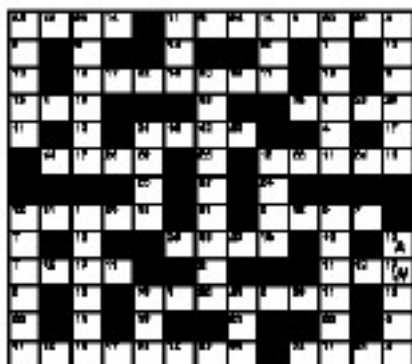
Please contact
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at High Tree's House, 1-9 Pool Lane,

Brain Gym

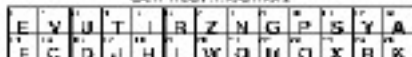
No. 104

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter in the alphabet is used. Use the given starting point to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Clues are in the quick crossword clues - both in the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Made a record, but it's better (4)
2. Tugboat and a small boat (4)
3. The old and the new (4)
4. The old and the new (4)
5. The old and the new (4)
6. The old and the new (4)
7. The old and the new (4)
8. The old and the new (4)
9. The old and the new (4)
10. The old and the new (4)
11. The old and the new (4)
12. The old and the new (4)
13. The old and the new (4)
14. The old and the new (4)

Down

1. The old and the new (4)
2. The old and the new (4)
3. The old and the new (4)
4. The old and the new (4)
5. The old and the new (4)
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10. The old and the new (4)
11. The old and the new (4)
12. The old and the new (4)
13. The old and the new (4)
14. The old and the new (4)

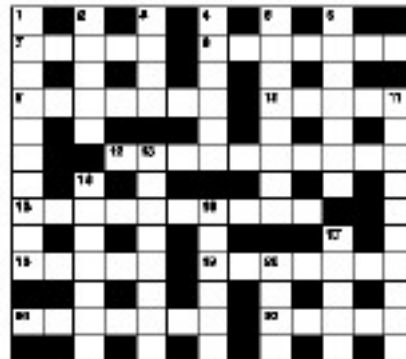
QUICK CLUES:

Across

1. The old and the new (4)
2. The old and the new (4)
3. The old and the new (4)
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Down

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13. The old and the new (4)
14. The old and the new (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1. The old and the new (4)
2. The old and the new (4)
3. The old and the new (4)
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11. The old and the new (4)
12. The old and the new (4)
13. The old and the new (4)
14. The old and the new (4)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row, every column, every 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Circlegram

Reveal the quotation made with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form a word or a common phrase. What is the first word in the quotation made with the letters in the first circle?



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A brand new unfurnished 3 bed semi detached home, briefly comprising of: Fully Double Glazed and Central Heating, Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Guest WC, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and Two Parking Spaces.

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the pulse

Matthew Bourne's Cinderella Birmingham Hippodrome

MATTHEW Bourne and his New Adventures dance company have kept Prokofiev's romantic music and the barest outline of plot but have otherwise completely reinvented Cinderella as a dark romance set at the height of the London Blitz.

This is a grown up fairy tale, a passionate cinematic tale of brief encounters and dancing like there is no tomorrow because at any time a bomb may mean there is no tomorrow.

It is a tribute to London of the 1940s, locations such as Oxford Circus Underground and Paddington Station are recreated in Lez Brotherton's impressive art deco sets.

It is also a tribute to the movies of that era. The prominent tone is a silver screen monochrome, Michela Meazza's elegantly evil stepmother is Joan Crawford-like and such classics as A Matter of Life and Death and Brief Encounter are influences.

The three act ballet is framed by newsreels and the recorded orchestra presented in cinema style

surround sound. The explosions sound unnervingly realistic

The ballet is framed by newsreels and the recorded orchestra presented in cinema style surround sound.

Bourne's choreography has a sexy physicality, as much influenced by jive as classic ballet and reveals flashes of grotesque humour.

The fairy godmother becomes a silver haired male hoover with Fred Astaire moves who takes Cinders to the dance in a motorcycle and sidecar; the prince is a wounded airman who meets prostitutes and rent boys during his quest with the slipper; and Cinderella's dysfunctional family includes a stepbrother with a foot fetish. Christopher Marney (The Angel), Sam Archer (Harry the pilot) and Kerry Biggin (Cinderella) were very good indeed

Bourne doesn't do traditional but he does do thrilling, daring and romantic and his productions connect with the public, as evidenced by a full house in the Hippodrome on Tuesday.

Cinderella continues to Saturday. Leon Burakowski

Punt & Dennis Birmingham

THEY first came to prominence on The Mary Whitehouse Experience. But while Hugh Dennis has continued to be a regular TV feature on programmes such as Out-numbered and Mock the Week, much less has been seen of his comedy partner.

The two have revived their partnership for the first time in four years for their They Should Get Out More tour.

Disabilities, ghosts and wines of the world were among the topics covered, complete with a lot of audience interaction – and all to great comic effect.

I wonder what Mary Whitehouse would have made of it all?

Mark Shipp

Alexandra Burke, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

X FACTOR winner Alexandra Burke bounced onto the stage at a near-full Civic Hall for her All Night Long tour, clearly moved by the thunderous welcome she received from her devoted fans.

Dressed in the first of many risque outfits, she was later joined on stage by the customary four shirtless male dancers (a bit of eye candy for the ladies).

With an abundance of confidence and with amazing vocals, her command of the stage was evident right from the start.

Backed by a brilliant band and two girl singers, her opening song Broken Heels, immediately had the audience eating out of the palm of her hand.

Delivering a good mixture of high energy belted-out ballads and catchy dance hits, she had the ecstatic audience up on their feet, clapping and dancing to her frequent insistence to make some noise.

Pop R&B hits Start Without You, Bad Boys, All Night Long and her breathtaking version of Hallelujah, as well as a vibrant Destiny Child medley were outstanding. A classy lady with a classy act.

Les Jowett

Around the gigs

The delicious joy of Janelle

FANS of American R&B have a chance to catch a rising star when Janelle Monae appears in concert at the Birmingham HMV Institute on Friday, February 25.

Her debut album was nominated for two awards at Sunday's Grammy awards, including best album for The ArchAndroid, and the young singer has created a stir with her delicious blend of R&B, acid funk and skewed pop.

No one else sounds quite like her but Kells, Outkast and Cee Lo Green perhaps come closest.

End of the road

BIRMINGHAM rapper/urban poet Mike Skinner makes his last appearance as The Streets in his home city at the O2 Academy on Friday night, February 25, following the release of his fifth and final



Mike Skinner

Streets album Computers and Blues. The former Sutton Coldfield College student is best known for the 2004 hit single Dry Your Eyes from his second album A Grand Don't Come For Free.

All over for Europe

IT'S The Final Countdown for fans of melodic hard rock when Swedish rockers Europe, who had a massive hit with that song in the mid 1980s, come to the Birmingham O2 Academy tomorrow (Friday) as part of their tour in support of new album Last Look At Eden.



Janelle Monae – rising star

Reviews

more than just pretty faces.

All can sing and there were well-choreographed dance moves.

They also showed they can slow the pace down with a version of the Eminem/Rihanna song Love the Way You Lie.

Two other Rihanna covers followed with What's My Name and Only Girl. Died in Your Eyes saw Una playing guitar.

Video footage filed in between costume changes – there were two of them during the main set – while the girls carried balloons on stage for the Comic Relief single I Just Can't Get Enough.

Another costume change preceded the encore, which before the big Ego finish, featured Forever Is Over and Missing You.

New boyband Twenty Twenty provided the support.

Mark Shipp

The Saturdays, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

WHAT better way to spend Valentine's Day than with your loved one – and the five loveliest ladies in pop. Una, Mollie, Frankie, Vanessa and Rochelle even chose their Headlines tour to bring the news of a new tour in December.

But first this one. The concert began with a Duck Sauce-style Barbra Streisand and register of names from people in the audience.

And from the moment the girls took to the stage with the upbeat Higher, the whole place was rocking.

There was also a rousing finale in the form of Ego.

In between, all the hits like Up and Work all received a rapturous welcome, but for me the best harmonies were reserved for Lose Control, Puppet and the Poppy Day single Here Standing.

The quintet – and we all have our favourites – are

Blood Brothers, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HAVE you heard the story of the Johnstone brothers? Which means Blood Brothers is back. This emotional masterpiece by Willy Russell is guaranteed to pull at your heart strings, have you laughing and applauding like crazy.

A mix of drama, comedy and song brilliantly performed by a strong and talented cast.

The moving story of twins who are separated at birth and whose lives end in tragedy, is set in the backstreets of Liverpool.

Niki Evans gives an excellent performance as Mrs Johnstone and has a fabulous vocal range. Sean Jones and Paul Davies superbly played endearing twins Mickey and Eddie. Craig Price is a clear and competent narrator.

Has poignant songs such as Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and, of course, the tear-jerking final one, Tell Me It's Not So, which had the entire audience on its feet for a well deserved standing ovation.

Mention must also go to the orchestra and sound engineer for a first class job.

Les Jowett

Count Arthur Strong's Command(o) Performance The New Alex.

COUNT Arthur Strong is the greatest variety star there never was.

Notwithstanding someone turning the New Alexandra Theatre around to face the wrong way without telling him, the cult comedy star displayed his cantankerous temper and dyslexic command of the English language along with a constant stream of Malapropisms which make Doctor Spooner sounds as erudite as Stephen Fry.

Rarely sober or in touch with reality, the count, as Johnny Vegas said via a video screen, has worked with some of the biggest names in showbiz, shame he upset so many of them.

Aby hamstrung by side-kicks Terry Kilkelly as Malcolm and Renee and Dave Plimmer as Alan Leslie, the count, aka Stephen Delaney, lets rip on anyone called Michael with a verbal tirade worthy of Ronnie Barker.

The count has that rare

ability not really seen since the days of Tommy Cooper et al to stand there doing nothing and still have the audience in fits of laughter.

With his parody of Can't Cook, Ready Steady Bloody 123, which never really formulated into a full title, he tried his hand at wine tasting using his sophisticated Pontius palette, who apparently fiddled while Rome burned.

Staggering around the stage like some geriatric throwback to the great days of variety, the count drags the old format kicking and screaming into the 21st century, lubricating the transition with liberal amounts of wine and various other alcoholic beverages.

You haven't lived until you see him act out facing Dracula and keep him talking until daybreak sees the vampire's 'testasticles' rolling down the hill.

Oh, and should the count offer to let you drain his spuds I suggest you decline – if you can stop laughing long enough.

Danny Farragher

Book: Lily Alone (hardback, Doubleday, 12.99)

YOUNG Lily is left to look after her siblings – six-year-old twins and a three-year-old sister – when her mum goes on holiday with her boyfriend and her step dad fails to turn up.

Desperate to avoid school or social services finding out, and wanting to avoid the flat getting too untidy, she comes up with a plan to go on a camping adventure in the park.

An intriguing set up for Jacqueline Wilson's latest children's novel, which the hugely popular writer handles in her assured no-nonsense style, blending comedy and tragedy and prompting young readers to think about responsibility.

Illustrations by Nick Sharratt.

Leon Burakowski

DVD: Buried (15, Icon)

IF you suffer from claustrophobia you had best avoid Buried, out now on DVD and Blu-ray, but do watch if you like an innovative, against-the-clock thriller.

Ryan Reynolds plays an American truck driver ambushed in Iraq and buried by insurgents in a coffin, with only a mobile phone and a Zippo lighter at his disposal.

He knows he has a

limited amount of oxygen, the battery life of his phone is dwindling, and he is being held for ransom.

Director Rodrigo Cortes's cameras never leave the coffin but make a virtue of their limitations as the viewer empathises with the kidnap victim's utterly terrifying plight... especially when he's put on hold!

Leon Burakowski

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SALES & LETTINGS. Applicants waiting for properties in Quinton, Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Oakham, Halesowen and Cradley Heath

HALESOWEN	ROWLEY REGIS	BIRMINGHAM Quinton	HALESOWEN	HALESOWEN	HALESOWEN	HALESOWEN	HALESOWEN Romsley
 <p>King Charles Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached family house * Three bedrooms * Good size rear garden * Extended living room * Extended kitchen/breakfast room * Ground floor shower room * Utility <p>Offers in the region of £214,950</p>	 <p>Terrace Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Modern detached house * Four bedrooms (one ensuite) * Lounge * Dining room * Kitchen/breakfast room * Ground floor WC * Utility * Garden <p>Offers in the region of £199,950</p>	 <p>Grayswood Park Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached house * Three bedrooms * Living room * Dining room * Bathroom * Separate WC * Good size rear garden * Garage <p>Offers in the region of £184,950</p>	 <p>112B Portland Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ground floor flat * One double bedroom * Spacious accommodation * Kitchen with appliances * Double glazing & electric heating. * Enclosed rear garden. * Available from 1st March 2011 <p>Monthly rent of £695</p>	 <p>37 Spinners End Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Second floor flat * One bedroom * Spacious living room * Kitchen with oven and fridge * DG windows & NS heating * Allocated parking * Convenient location <p>Monthly rent of £525</p>	 <p>Flat 1 Highgate House 13 Parkfield Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ground floor flat * One bedroom * large living room * bathroom with shower * electric heating * car parking space * available now <p>Monthly rent of £365</p>	 <p>Apt 43 Romsley Hill Grange Farley Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One bedroom flat * Electric heaters * Fitted kitchen with appliances * Garage * Superb landscaped communal grounds * Car parking space <p>Monthly rent of £525</p>	 <p>Offers in the region of £225,000</p> <p>OPEN TO VIEW SAT 19th 10.15-11.15am (also available on 80% shared equity basis)</p> <p>Plot 2 Old School House Gardens 1B Blackbrook Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Brand new mid terraced house * three bedrooms * quality kitchen & bathroom * large garage * fitted carpets * gas central heating <p>£145,000 (£116,000 80%)</p>
 <p>Titford Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached house * Three bedrooms * Living room * Kitchen/dining * General modernisation required * Good size rear garden <p>Offers in the region of £99,950</p>	 <p>Hamilton Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spacious first floor flat * Situated in popular residential location * One double bedroom * Double glazing * Rear garden * Garage in separate block <p>Offers in the region of £84,950</p>	 <p>Church & Caretaker's House Long Lane</p> <p>Former Church together, together with detached caretaker's house. Site area: Approx. 1,800 sqm. Of interest to Developers and Investors (subject to planning approval).</p> <p>Offers in the region of £425,000</p>	 <p>7 Paganel Industrial Estate Turner Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ideal starter unit * Small private estate * Good security * Gated access * Roller shutter door * Washroom <p>Rent: £3,600 pa plus VAT</p>	 <p>Quarry Bank Flat 23C High Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Self contained flat * One Bedroom * Kitchen with various appliances * UPVC double glazed windows * Bathroom with shower over bath * Convenient location * Available now <p>Monthly rent of £340</p>	 <p>70A Stourbridge Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Self contained first floor flat. * One bedroom. * UPVC double glazed windows. * Electric heating. * Conveniently situated. <p>Monthly rent of £335</p>	 <p>3 Beechwood Court 437 HALESOWEN ROAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Self contained flat * Fitted kitchen * Bathroom with shower * Neutral decoration * NSH & DG windows * Car space with communal grounds * Available from 7/3/2011 <p>Monthly rent of £285</p>	

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EDGBASTON
SHENSTONE ROAD

Delightfully presented double fronted three storey property. The 'Belmont' occupying an impressive corner position on the Butlers Leap development comprising central reception hall, downstairs guest w.c., attractive dual-aspect lounge, spacious fitted kitchen/diner, utility area, four bedrooms (master having en suite shower room/wc), family bathroom/wc, landscaped front and rear gardens, garage to side, gas central heating, double glazing and alarm. Viewing is recommended.

£209,995



OLDBURY
BROADWAY CROFT

Substantially extended well presented semi detached residence located a cul-de-sac and comprising reception hall, generous 30 ft through lounge, spacious fitted kitchen/diner, three double bedrooms, stylish re-fitted first floor bathroom/wc with walk-in shower, additional stylish separate wc, attractive landscaped rear garden, integral garage with garage lift storage and full-width block paved driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is highly recommended.

£187,500



OLDBURY
SUNNYBANK ROAD

Well presented traditional style character semi-detached residence located in a popular residential road and comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, downstairs guest w.c., dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, modern style first floor bathroom with shower, rear garden, side garage, driveway, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified). Viewing is highly recommended.

£169,950



BEARWOOD/SMETHWICK
GALTON ROAD

Well presented traditional style first floor terraced residence located in a popular road comprising enclosed porch, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility area, downstairs shower room/wc, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, double glazing (where specified). This property benefits from comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand easy access to Birmingham City Centre.

£162,500



QUINTON
PITMAN ROAD

Traditional style semi-detached residence located in this popular residential neighbourhood just off Quinton Road West comprising covered side entrance, reception hall, spacious through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc, rear garden, block paved drive to front, side garage, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

£154,950



HALESOWEN
WOODBURY ROAD

Modern style extended link detached residence in a popular road comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, spacious through lounge, extended fitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc with shower, side garage, rear garden, driveway, double glazing and warm air central heating. No upward chain.

£145,000



OLDBURY
BROOK ROAD

Delightfully presented spacious mid terraced residence comprising entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen (with built-in oven and hob), three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, separate wc, rear garden, off road parking to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. Viewing is recommended.

£124,950



OLDBURY
HAGLEY ROAD WEST

Superbly presented spacious two-storey duplex apartment conveniently located on the main Hagley Road West, Quinton. First storey comprises feature conservatory, L-shaped reception hall with built-in storage, modern style fitted kitchen, spacious attractive dining area and lounge. Second storey comprises two double bedrooms, modern style re-fitted shower room, separate wc, gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking for two cars and attractive garden having pergola and top-level deck. Internal viewing is essential.

£116,500



SMETHWICK
UNKETTS ROAD

Well presented traditional style mid terraced residence comprising entrance hall, lounge, spacious breakfast kitchen, down stairs wc, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, rear garden, off road parking to front, gas central heating (where specified) and double glazing. Viewing recommended.

£112,500



OLDBURY
FARM ROAD

Well presented traditional style mid terraced residence in popular road comprising enclosed porch, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom/wc with walk-in shower, three double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. The property also benefits from having double glazing and feature gas fuel stove. Internal viewing is highly recommended.

£112,500



NORTHFIELD
WOLSELEY HOUSE

Delightfully presented spacious modern second floor apartment comprising lounge/dining area, kitchen, double bedroom, modern bathroom/wc with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, feature Juliet balcony, lift access, intercom system and secure gated allocated parking. Internal viewing is essential.

£89,995



HARBORNE
QUINTON ROAD

Well presented mid terraced residence comprising reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc with shower, front, rear gardens and gas central heating and double glazing.

£550 PCM



OLDBURY
OLIVE MOUNT

Deceptively spacious recently refurbished and terraced family residence comprising entrance hall, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs bathroom/wc (with shower), three good sized bedrooms, first floor shower room, front and side gardens. The property also benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing recommended.

£550 PCM



OLDBURY
TITFORD ROAD

Well presented unfinished semi-detached residence conveniently located for local schools, bus routes and local Aoads comprising entrance hall, two reception rooms, modern refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, additional box room, modern first floor refitted bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating. Viewing recommended.

£520 PCM



OLDBURY
TITFORD ROAD

Delightfully presented luxury ground floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' Development built by Bellway Homes. This attractive apartment comprises central reception hall with built-in storage, lounge with open plan fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom/wc with shower. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, security intercom and residents' parking. Viewing is highly recommended.

£500 PCM



OLDBURY
ASHWOOD CLOSE, OFF TITFORD ROAD

Well presented modern first floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' development built by Bellway Homes comprising central reception hall, open plan lounge fitted kitchen (with integrated appliances), two double bedrooms, luxury bathroom with shower, storage heating, double glazing, allocated parking space. Viewing recommended.

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH
REDDAL HILL ROAD

Luxury second floor apartment comprising central reception hall with built-in storage, attractive lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms master having built-in wardrobes, luxury bathroom/wc with power shower, double glazed, electric storage heating, security intercom system. The property also benefits from having allocated parking. Viewing is highly recommended.

£475 PCM



NETHERTON
ROCK HAVEN

Delightfully presented modern first floor apartment comprising entrance hall, open plan lounge/kitchen area, two bedrooms, modern bathroom/wc (with power shower), double glazing, electric heating, parking space at rear of property and security intercom system. Viewing is highly recommended. Available now.

£450 PCM

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Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen



£94,500 **NEW**

A Three bedroom Semi detached property comprising Lounge, Kitchen, utility room, Family Bathroom, Driveway & Rear garden.

Banners Street, Halesowen



£75,000

Traditional two bed semi detached house comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden. The property also benefits from double glazing.

Peckover Close, Rowley Regis



£118,000 **NEW**

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Showerroom, Garage and Driveway, Rear Garden, Double glazing + Central Heating

Burton Grove, Cradley Heath



£137,950 **NEW**

A Three Bedroom Semi detached property offering Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, double glazing and central heating

Woodbury Road, Halesowen



£120,000 **REDUCED**

Three Bedroom Mid Terrace Property, Kitchen, Lounge, Bathroom, Double Glazing and Central Heating. Also offering front and rear gardens

Highfield Road, Rowley Regis



£85,000

Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN

Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



£100,000

Three bedroom semi detached comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Highfield Crescent, Halesowen



£107,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, driveway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor shower room, double glazing, central heating and rear garden.

Chatsworth Road, Halesowen



£140,000

A three bedroom semi detached property offering through lounge, kitchen and bathroom. Garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN

Balmoral Way, Rowley Regis



£140,000

Three bedroom link detached property, driveway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, garage, rear garden, bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating.

Olive Hill Road, Halesowen



£150,000

A traditional semi detached comprising of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, garage, off road parking.

Dudley Road, Rowley Regis



£150,000

Three bedroom detached, lounge, dining room, study area, shower room and wc, bathroom, part double glazing and central heating, garden and driveway providing off road parking.

Long Innage, Halesowen



Offers Over £180,000

A link detached three bedroom house, dining room, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom, garage, rear garden and driveway providing off road parking.

Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington



£700,000

Three bed detached bungalow comprising lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, en suite, bathroom, rear garden, garage, Central heating and double glazing.

Canterbury Close, Rowley Regis



£55,000

A second floor flat comprising parking, security intercom entrance door, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom.

Wendover Road, Rowley Regis



£110,000

A semi detached house in a popular and sought after location with accommodation comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom.

Blue Ball Lane, Halesowen



£25,000

A Two Bedroom House 25% Shared Ownership, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Driveway, Rear Garden.

Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath



£120,000

A Three three bedroom property comprising two reception rooms, bathroom, kitchen, double glazing and central heating and rear garden.

Intended Street, Halesowen



£80,000

Terraced property comprising in brief of lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, downstairs bathroom, utility area and rear garden. Central heating and double glazing.

Counterfield Drive, Rowley Regis



£100,000

End terrace, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, off road parking.

Dudley Road, Rowley Regis



£100,000

A Victorian mid terraced property with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of Lounge, dining room and kitchen/diner. Two bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally there is a garden to the rear.

Apperley Way, Halesowen



£115,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge/diner, kitchen, second reception room, bathroom, double glazing, off road parking, rear garden.

Goths Close, Halesowen



£120,000

Semi detached property comprising lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. garage, front drive and rear garden.

Red Leasowes Road, Halesowen



£120,000

Two Bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway, front and rear gardens and garage, double glazing and central heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Lyde Green, Halesowen



£60,000

A One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Bedroom, Electric Storage Heaters, garage en-block and double glazing.



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CHRONICLE MOTORING

New engines for off-road Antara

WITH a refreshed exterior design, new engines, revised chassis settings and an upgraded interior, the Vauxhall Antara combines off-road flair with practicality for the 2011 model year.

The all-new engine line-up comprising two diesel units which both meet Euro 5 emissions standards and guarantee improved driving performance with improved consumption.

Both transmissions available – an auto and manual – are also newly developed for the Antara.

The 2.2 CDTI diesel engine comes in two output levels. The 163PS entry level unit develops maximum torque of 350 Nm at 2,000rpm and is available with front or all-wheel drive and manual or automatic transmission. With fuel consumption of 44.8mpg, CO2 emissions of 167g/km combined with a 9.9-second 0-60mph time and top speed of 117mph, the powertrain offers an excellent blend of performance and efficiency.

The 184PS top-of-the-line diesel, producing maximum torque of 400Nm at just 2,000rpm, comes standard with all-wheel drive and is available with both transmissions. Performance is enhanced further, with a 0-60mph time of 9.6 seconds and a top speed of 124mph, yet economy is still impressive, with a combined 42.8mpg and CO2 emissions of 175 g/km.

The Antara's electroni-



The refreshed Antara combines off-road flair with family-friendly practicality

cally controlled all-wheel drive system combines the advantages of front-wheel drive – such as low fuel consumption – with the traction benefits of an all-wheel drive system.

While the engine normally powers the front wheels, prevailing driving conditions are continuously monitored by the control electronics. If poor traction causes front-axle slippage, the system seamlessly redistributes power.

Supple

Depending on the driving situation and outside conditions, the power distribution range spans from 100 per cent front-wheel drive to 50 per cent on both front and rear axles, and all variations in between.

To match its lively engines, the updated Antara now features a newly-tuned chassis that combines driving involvement and agility with a comfortable, supple ride. The speed-sensitive power steering has also been enhanced to offer

more accuracy and feel. Refinements to the chassis and active safety include improvements to the ABS system and the standard fitting of Hill Start Assist (HSA) which prevents roll-back when driving away on gradients. Depending on model variant and equipment, distinctive 17-, 18- or 19-inch alloy wheels complement the new Antara's bold looks.

The new exterior sports an updated front grille, with the Griffin logo positioned on the chrome cross-bar. Re-designed fog lights, rear lights with new graphics and a distinctive protection panel at the front and rear of the car complete the exterior changes.

The refreshed interior offers new, upscale trim and upholstery, instruments with new graphics, a re-designed centre console with extra storage solutions, along with an elegant leather trim option called Light Titanium. Prices range from £19,995 to £26,905.

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- Cruise control
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CITROËN	NEW C3 1.6 HDI AIRDREAM	SILVER	01/09/2010	£15,510	£11,290	£4,220
CITROËN	DS3 1.6 THP SPORT	RED	01/09/2010	£17,370	£13,899	£3,471
CITROËN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90 MPV EXCLUSIVE	BLACK	18/06/2010	£17,825	£11,999	£5,826
CITROËN	C4 1.6 HDI 90 VTR+	GREY	01/03/2010	£17,065	£10,999	£6,066
CITROËN	C5 SALOON 2.0 HDI 163 VTR+ NAV	WHITE	29/11/2010	£23,295	£16,999	£6,296
CITROËN	C4 G PICASSO 1.6 HDI 110 EGS VTR+	RED	01/09/2010	£22,005	£14,999	£7,006
CITROËN	NEMO 1.4 HDI 70 LX VAN	WHITE	28/05/2010	£11,557	£8,999*	£4,558
CITROËN	BERLINGO 1.6 HDI 75 LX VAN	BLACK	08/09/2010	£12,925	£8,999*	£3,926
CITROËN	DISPATCH HDI 90 PANEL VAN	SILVER	12/07/2010	£16,655	£9,999*	£6,656
CITROËN	RELAY HDI 120 35 HEAVY LWB PANEL VAN	WHITE	29/07/2010	£24,390	£14,999*	£9,391
CITROËN	C1 1.0 VTR 3DR	WHITE	31/01/2011	£9,245	£8,999	£2,246
CITROËN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	31/01/2011	£15,725	£11,499	£4,226
CITROËN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	31/01/2011	£15,725	£11,499	£4,226
CITROËN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	31/01/2011	£15,725	£11,499	£4,226
HYUNDAI	i10 1.1 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	15/03/2010	£8,975	£6,499	£2,476
HYUNDAI	i10 1.2 CLASSIC	SILVER	01/09/2010	£8,295	£6,299	£1,996
HYUNDAI	i10 1.2 CLASSIC	BLACK	29/09/2010	£8,295	£6,299	£1,996
HYUNDAI	i20 1.2 COMFORT 3DR	BLUE	24/06/2010	£10,965	£7,999	£2,966
HYUNDAI	i20 1.2 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	29/03/2010	£11,850	£9,299	£2,551
HYUNDAI	i20 1.4 CRDI STYLE 8SP	BLACK	08/09/2010	£14,025	£11,499	£2,526
HYUNDAI	i20 1.4 CLASSIC 5DR	SILVER	25/03/2010	£14,000	£8,799	£5,201
HYUNDAI	i20 1.4 EDITION 5DR	SILVER	24/06/2010	£13,425	£10,499	£2,926
HYUNDAI	i20 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM	BLUE	03/09/2010	£17,245	£12,999	£4,246
HYUNDAI	i20 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM	BLACK	06/09/2010	£17,245	£12,999	£4,246
HYUNDAI	i20 (SGLTHR) 1.6 CRDI PREM ESTATE	BLUE	01/09/2010	£19,845	£13,999	£5,846
HYUNDAI	i20 1.4 CRDI STYLE	GREY	22/11/2010	£15,825	£12,999	£2,826
HYUNDAI	SANTA FE PREM 7ST	GREY	08/12/2010	£26,690	£23,999	£2,691
HYUNDAI	LOAD COMFORT VAN	GREY	20/01/2011	£14,230	£11,699*	£2,531
HYUNDAI	i20 1.4 COMFORT 5DR auto	RED	31/12/2010	£12,180	£10,174	£1,986



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10 Civic 2.2 Type S GT, Alloys, Sunroof, Cd, Red, 10 miles	£15,999	56 Civic 1.8 EX, Sat Nav, Hft, Alloys, Silver, 48 miles	£8,499
07 Civic 1.8 Type S GT, Sat Nav, Hft, Alloys, Blue, 37 miles	£8,999	05 Civic 1.6 Sport, Alloys, Air Con, Grey40 miles	£5,999
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IRENE HARRIET SHUARD (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above-mentioned deceased late of Edgobaston Beaumont Nursing Home 32 St James Road Edgobaston Birmingham B15 2NK formerly of 121 Ridgeway Road Quanton Birmingham B32 2TA who died on 14/11/2010, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/04/2011, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

MARGARET DAISS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above-mentioned deceased, late of The Spinney 13 Grange Hill Halesowen West Midlands B63 4JH who died on 16/12/2010, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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sport

Stour on march to the cup final

Redditch United 0
Stourbridge 4

STOURBRIDGE can look forward to a final with Worcester City as they bid to win the Worcestershire Senior Cup for the first time in 30 years.

The Glassboys were beaten finalists in 2006/07 but will be hoping to go one step further this time.

A brace of goals from Ryan Rowe set the visitors on their way to victory on a foul Tuesday night with the playing surface passing an inspection prior to kick-off as heavy rain began to fall once more.

Indeed, the semi-final kicked off some five minutes early because of concerns, but the pitch played well in the circumstances.

The struggling home side fielded a new-look line-up after budget cuts but showed plenty of spirit and had the better of the early play.

Headed

In the ninth minute Cassie Newton played in a ball from the right and Josh McKenzie headed towards goal where Aaron Moses-Garvey got in a glancing header that Lewis Solly did well to push round the post.

Seven minutes before the interval, Stourbridge opened the scoring. A ball forward from Jamie Oliver deflected off the head of a Redditch player and dropped kindly for Rowe to gather and then tuck away a low shot.

Rowe then had one chance saved and put another wide, but scored in the 75th minute to put Stourbridge firmly in control. Paul McCone clipped a ball into the box for Rowe to take down before squeezing the ball past Farmer to double the lead.

Stourbridge struck twice in the last 10 minutes to book their place in the two-legged final. In the 80th minute Josh Craddock controlled the ball before burying his shot into the roof of the net. Dovey got the fourth in stoppage time.

Girls fight back for draw

Wythymoor Colts 3 Sedgley Girls 3

SEDGLEY took the lead with a solo effort from Phoenix Coxon for Wythymoor to storm back and lead 3-1 at half-time.

Jessica Taylor, on her debut for Sedgley, reduced the arrears after the break from six yards out.

Both teams had chances but it was Sedgley who grabbed a draw when Bethany Male notched a spectacular left-footed effort.

Great speedway names will do battle again

TWO of speedway's greatest names will do battle in this year's National League Knockout Cup after Dudley Heathens were paired with Belle Vue Colts in round one.

The Manchester side were accepted into the league last week and will race their home meetings at Kirkmanshulme Lane on Mondays and Wednesdays,

working around their senior side's Elite League schedule.

It's a tasty cup draw for both clubs with bumper crowds expected for both legs on dates yet to be agreed.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "Belle Vue speedway is one of the most famous names in the sport's history and their Colts

team have provided many fine riders in years gone by.

"I think it's brilliant for the sport that the Belle Vue management are running a National League side in tandem with their Elite League operation.

"I'm sure there will be plenty of Heathens fans who will be wanting to make the trip to Manchester."

Dudley have announced their first two home fixtures. The Heathens, who will stage their home matches on Tuesdays at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green circuit, will open on April 12 with a clash against the USA Tourists. The following week they host Euxton in the first leg of the National Shield, with the return on April 24.

JOY TURNS SOUR IN YELTZZ DEFEAT

Lloyd's goal is just not enough

Stratford 2
Causway Utd 1

DESPITE a competitive, well-fought game, Carl Burleys men suffered their third consecutive defeat against an in-form Stratford Town side who had only lost once in 11 competitive games.

Straight from the kick-off the home side went for the jugular and efforts from Dave Pearson and Chris Murphy were both denied by Causway keeper Todd Henderson.

It took United 30 minutes to find their composure and, having soaked up so much pressure, they almost broke the deadlock.

Scott Stevenson got away down the left to drive the ball across the Stratford goalmouth towards team-mate Will Tibbets who failed to connect with just Joe Mellings to beat.

Mistake

The mistake proved costly as Stratford's counter-attack set up Chris Murphy, who stroled through the United defence to place the ball past Henderson on 37 minutes.

However, the advantage was short-lived when Aaron Lloyd netted just before the break despite appeals for offside.

The second half was evenly balanced until Stratford were boosted following the introduction of substitutes Mark Faunds and Mykel Beckley on 62 and 68 minutes respectively.

The home side continued to press and on 72 minutes Henderson and Stratford forward Andy Gregory both climbed towards a high ball at the near post. The home forward's slender contact was enough to beat the keeper.

United refused to surrender and responded with some good attacking football.

With seven minutes remaining they were unfortunate not to level when substitute Craig Gregg caught the home defence napping but, with just Mellings to beat, drove his shot wide.

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

Cirencester Town 5 Halesowen Town 0
HALESOWEN slumped back to losing ways with a heavy defeat at Cirencester Town as Jody Bevan scored a hat-trick.

The travelling Yeltz faithful had enjoyed Saturday's win at Banbury but were back to earth with a bump on Tuesday.

Despite achieving only one win in their last eight league outings the Centurions started brightly and James Mortimer-Jones rattled the base of the post.

Bruce shoots Halesowen to a victory

Banbury United 0 Halesowen 2

ANTHONY BRUCE's birthday brace lifted hard-working Halesowen off the bottom of the table with a 2-0 win at Banbury on Saturday.

Bruce celebrated his 21st birthday in fine style after a run of seven league defeats.

Halesowen registered their first league victory since November.

Chris Godwin made a surprise return at the heart of the defence after the briefest of spells at Davenport and was kept busy early on as Banbury laid siege.

David Stone, who started the season in Halesowen colours, just failed to control the ball in front of goal in the fifth minute. Adam Robinson sliced the ball away for a corner on the uneven surface a minute later and his goalkeeper Simon Flower did just enough to fingertip clear.

Nodded

Malachi Farquharson then nodded wide in the 11th minute and Keenan Meakin-Richards made a good clearance as Banbury dominated.

But Bruce gave the Yeltz a shock lead after 25 minutes by turning home from close range after Justin Nisbett did well to square the ball across goal.

Marvin Martin converted a rebound for the Puritans five minutes later after Flower made an excellent save from Declan Benjamin's drive, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Flower's fine form continued with a good save low down from home captain Delroy Gordon.

But Bruce rose to head home McGrath's corner for the vital second.

Man of the match Mortimer-Jones then delivered a ninth-minute corner and found Bevan on hand to poke home for 1-0.

For the Yeltz, Michael McGrath made a good 20th minute run and his shot was partly saved by home goalkeeper Alan Foster, leaving Lyndon Tomkins to clear up and concede a corner under pressure from Ashley Edwards.

But with the hosts on top, Draycott glanced a header inches wide of the post and then saw his low drive deflected away when well positioned, writes David Johnson.

Cirencester claimed their second goal just two minutes before the interval when Zak Westlake made a fine run down the right and cleverly flicked the ball around last defender Adam Robinson. Although Flower parried Westlake's final shot, Bevan was ideally placed again to pounce.

Rolling

Cirencester turned up the heat late on to add a further three goals as Halesowen tired.

Bevan completed his hat-trick in the 70th minute by rolling the ball into the net inside the near post from Hoskins' left-wing cross.

Home substitute Connor Thompson then appeared to be felled in the Yeltz penalty area four minutes later, but the appeal was refused.

The hosts added a fourth goal in the 77th minute when Thompson made a superb turn and although Flower saved his shot, Mortimer-Jones turned the ball back across goal for Draycott to head home.

Cirencester completed a good night's work when Mortimer-Jones laid the ball off for Draycott to stroke home his second goal from 15 yards and complete the scoring with four minutes left.

Old Hales fight hard, but league leaders prevail

Old Halesonians 5
Dudley Kingswinford 41

A COMPREHENSIVE victory at Old Halesonians stretched Dudley Kingswinford's record-breaking run to 19 consecutive league wins.

The opening exchanges were fairly even as the two sides probed warily but it was DK that drew first blood.

Jon Higgins broke in midfield to feed Tom Weaver who then gave an inside pass to full-back Matt Farrington for an excellent ninth-minute try, converted by Gareth Bown.

The home side were striving hard to redress the balance but DK looked strong up front, particularly Tui Asi Pito.

DK's pack produced a second try after 34 minutes when they shoved Old Halesonians off their own scrum ball.

Ramsey tore into the 22 before setting up a three-quarter move that saw Farrington score on the overlap.

Advantage

After the break Old Halesonians full-back Chris Hooper received a yellow card for baulking an opponent.

DK took full advantage when Jon Higgins sent Bown in for an unconverted try on 50 minutes to make it 17-0.

Five minutes later DK gained a bonus point when breaks through the middle from Ramsey and Tui Asi Pito left Thorp with the ball to barrel over from 10 metres out, Bown converting.

DK kept up their momentum and made it 29-0 when Shillingford raced in down the right.

Jak Davis then rounded a couple of defenders for a fine winger's try converted by Bown for 36-0. Replacement back Mike Jones got DK's last try.

But the home side had the last word with a very good consolation try on 76 minutes through Spencer Sutherland.



Stefan Thorp closes in on the fourth try. Picture: Peter Stinton

Greening on target for the equaliser

Boys League

Halas Hawks East 1 Kingswinford 1

HALAS under-nines East trailed at the interval but hit back in the second half. They equalised from a Charlie Greening free-kick.

Halas Hawks 7 Gornal 0

The under-11s won with goals from Matt Evans (2), Mohamed Yafai Mohammed Mohamed, Jouny Round, Joshua Horton, and Ben Jeavons.

West Hagley 1 Halas Dynamos 9

Halas under-12 Dynamos turned in an eye catching performance, hitting six goals without reply in the first half and hitting the woodwork three times.

Scores: Dalmar Morrison (3), Sam Price (2), Chris Priest, Jordan Boffey, Connor Smith, Jake Saxton.

Trysull Tigers 4 Halas Hawks West 0

The under-12s went out of the league cup. Their man of the match was goalkeeper Josh Rodgers.

Trysull Tigers 3 Halas Hawks 0

The under-13s played some good football but found themselves two down at the break. Trysull added a third in the second half.

Halas Hawks 6 Dudley Sports 3

Halas under-14s are still within touching distance of the league leaders after playing some fine football in a

nine-goal match which they led 6-1. Goals came from Josh March (3), Louis Ezewe (2) and Mitchell Tomlinson.

Halas Hawks 8 Hasbury 0

Guy Millward got a hat-trick for the under-16s with and further scores from Adam Hodges (2), Joe Powell, Chris Swancott and Tom Stevens.

Girls League

Kewford 1 Halas Hawks 9

Halas under-10s top the league cup table with goals from Hannah Fellows (4), Kirsty Hampton (2), Kelly Nicklin (2), and Madison Eden.

Kewford Eagles 4 Halas Hawks 2

The under-12s scored through Bethan Bryan and Amy Plimmer but fell to clinical finishing.

Wythymoor 1 Halas Hawks 3

The under-13s are on course to reach the league cup final, hitting back after trailing with two goals from Sophie Blount and one by Amy Blakemore.

Halas Hawks 9 Bustlehouse 2

Jess Morton got a hat-trick for the under-14s. Alison Down got two with Abby Willingle, Charis Maguire, Danielle Lawrence and Elisha Rose also on the mark.

Halas Hawks 1 Droitwich Spa 4

Lauren Taylor got a consolation goal as the under-15s bowed out of the cup.

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Covering the Black Country and wider West Midlands, Business Skills was set up in 2007 to focus on providing training for local businesses and employers and now works with over 1,000 employers in the region including Carillion, the British Army, Westfield and West Midlands Police and was the first Black Country college to be awarded the Training Quality Standard. Employing 50 people based in Kidderminster, there's a professional sales team on hand to give advice and guidance on a wide range of courses - some of which are still funded!

Kim Babb, Director at Business Skills, said: "We are a Black Country Chamber Patron and have worked very successfully with lots of local and national employers including Mansell, Debenhams, Ryman, Fitness First, The Village Hotels, Carillion, Worcester Bosch and Calor Gas. Investing in training both for current and future employees - especially in apprenticeships - is vital to the success of any organisation."

Book and pay for training courses online on the Business Skills website - www.bskills.org and follow us on Twitter to be the first to get updates on special offers and discounts. Courses on offer range from Leadership & Management, IT, Retail, Health & Safety through to Gas & Electric, Construction, Plumbing and Environmental Technologies.



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Don't waste your energy looking for gas, electrical and plumbing training anywhere else! Based in Ham Lane, Kingswinford, Business Skills' Energy Training Centre is one of the region's leading gas, electrical, plumbing and renewable technologies training and assessment centres in the West Midlands.

The centre, which is approved by NICEIC, NET, BPEC, CITB Construction Skills and City & Guilds, is equipped with state of the art training and assessment facilities to offer realistic working environments for all trades.

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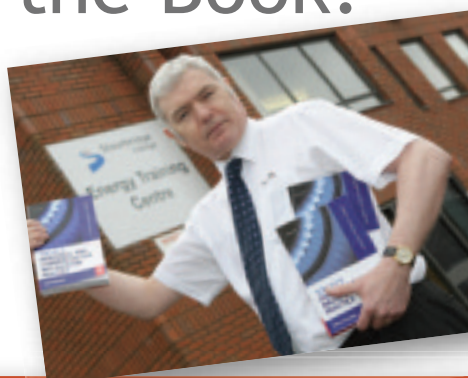
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In terms of Gas Training - we wrote the book. One member of staff, John Hazlehurst, has re-written and edited the famous Tolley series of books and is written proof that you won't get better gas training anywhere in the region!

John, from Wombourne, has researched and updated Volume 1 - Tolley's Basic Science & Practice of Gas Service, Volume 2 - Domestic Gas Installation Practice and Volume 3 - Tolley's Industrial & Commercial Gas and Installation Practice.

He said: "The books are really useful for people new to the gas industry as they cover the whole job competencies, including the wider health and safety issues and customer service not just the technical aspects. They are also a valuable source of reference to people teaching gas related courses."

You can now book and pay online. For information on all courses please contact us:
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Apprentices go further



The Energy Training Centre recently won a contract to train apprentices from all over the country on behalf of Worcester Bosch - the market leader in domestic heating and hot water systems.

Fifteen apprentices were chosen from a short list of over 300, with Stourbridge College driving forward the interview process by putting the candidates through key skills and practical assessments. All fifteen are now studying Level 3 Gas Maintenance at the Energy Training Centre in Kingswinford.

The apprentices are aged between 18 and 33, proving that apprenticeships can cover a range of age groups, not just school leavers - and they can suit both men and women!



Jane Davenport, attends one of the classroom based workshops.

JANE RE-IGNITES HER CAREER IN THE GAS INDUSTRY

Jane Davenport, 33, re-ignited her career when she switched from electric to gas after being made redundant. She started in the industry as a gas apprentice, but was made redundant when the economy started to flounder a few years ago. She was transferred to electric meter servicing but was so fired up about a career in gas she continued to look for ways to get back into the industry.

She said: "I didn't enjoy electric meter servicing as much but knew I would struggle to finance extra gas training myself. When the Worcester Bosch apprenticeship scheme came up I saw it as an excellent opportunity to work and train with a large reputable company. Apprenticeships are a great way to learn, not only do our course fees get paid, we get paid to learn which is a bonus!"

When she's qualified as a Service and Breakdown Engineer she will relocate to Mid Wales. The Level 3 Gas Maintenance course involves theory work, classroom based workshops and apprentices shadow a qualified engineer to learn the job hands on.

Employer gets fired up about our gas training



Don't take our word for it. The Energy Training Centre has trained 100s of people over the last year, including apprentices for Connaught's, FJ Jones, Dudley, JTL, Mansell and Sandwell MBC as well as a large number of independent and small business owners. In the past, our customers have travelled from as far afield as Carlisle and Exeter for training.

Kevin Stevens, Director at the Energy Training Centre, said: "We have recently won a contract to deliver the gas training apprentice scheme for Worcester Bosch and we have just begun to work with Calor Gas by offering additional skills training for their newly qualified apprentices. Employer links are vital for apprenticeship training and it's our aim to continue to build and strengthen our relationships for the benefit of the industry as a whole."

Gary Peckham, Business Development Manager for Calor Gas, said: "Our apprentices are currently topping up their apprenticeship skills at the Energy Training Centre and I'm really impressed with both the facilities and the standard of training available at the centre. We currently have eight qualified apprentices brushing up on their gas skills in Kingswinford which will add significantly to their level of knowledge and expertise."

Our facilities

The Energy Training Centre is based in Ham Lane, Kingswinford in the Black Country and we offer free parking, refreshments and a break out area for relaxation in between classes.

Electricians get switched on



Electrical Installation Level 3 apprentice, Thomas Jennings, took third place at the regional JTL Apprenticeship Training Awards held at Aston Villa Football Club recently for achieving a high standard of academic and technical competence within the electrical profession. Thomas started as a Level 1 apprentice with Stourbridge College and has shown that he's a bright spark! Andrew Ashford, another apprentice, was also nominated.

JTL's Regional Manager, Kevin Newell, said: "The JTL Regional Awards celebrate the achievements of JTL apprentices, their colleges and employers who are providing vital skills for the future despite the difficult economic climate. JTL has a long standing partnership with Stourbridge College and it's a great tribute to them that Thomas and Andrew, also nominated, are in the top two per cent of JTL apprentices in England and Wales."



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